

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water-absorbent resin, wherein said process comprises:

a) polymerizing to completion an ~~α,β -unsaturated~~ α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer to produce a polymerized water-containing gelated product;

b) adding a metal chelating agent at any step in the preparation of the water-absorbent resin, wherein said metal chelating agent is added in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid;

c) adding a reducing agent or an oxidizing agent to the polymerized water-containing gelated product in an amount of 0.001 to ~~[[6]]~~ 2 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and

d) drying the gelated product thereby yielding a polymerized water-absorbent resin having greater discoloration resistance than a polymerized water-absorbent resin having no reducing or oxidizing agent and no metal chelating agent added thereto.

2. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is a sulfite, a hydrogensulfite, a dithionite or a pyrosulfite.

3. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.

4. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the metal chelating agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid, trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, tripolyphosphoric acid, and salts thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) A water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the water-absorbent resin has Yellow Index of 12 or less, after allowing to stand at 50°C and 90% relative humidity for 20 days.

6. (Original) An absorbent comprising a water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, and a hydrophilic fiber.

7. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent of claim 6, wherein the absorbent is kept between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water-absorbent resin, wherein said process comprises, in the following order:

a) polymerizing to completion an ~~α,β -unsaturated~~ α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer to produce a polymerized water-containing gelated product;

b) adding a metal chelating agent at any step in the preparation of the water-absorbent

resin, wherein said metal chelating agent is added in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid;

c) adding an oxidizing agent to the polymerized water-containing gelated product in an amount of 0.001 to $[[6]] \leq 2$ parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and

d) drying the gelated product thereby yielding a polymerized water-absorbent resin having greater discoloration resistance than a polymerized water-absorbent resin having no oxidizing agent and no metal chelating agent added thereto.

10. (New) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the reducing agent or oxidizing agent added in step c) is 0.01 to 2 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid.

11. (New) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 9, wherein the amount of the oxidizing agent added in step c) is 0.01 to 2 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid.